

effect on a significant thermal feature listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall not issue such geothermal lease. In addition, the Secretary shall withdraw from leasing under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, those lands, or portion thereof, subject to the application for geothermal lease, the exploration, development, or utilization of which is reasonably likely to result, based on the Secretary's determination, in a significant adverse effect on a significant thermal feature listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

"(d) With respect to all geothermal leases issued after the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 18, 1986] the Secretary shall include stipulations in leases necessary to protect significant thermal features listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section where a determination is made based on scientific evidence that the exploration, development, or utilization of the lands subject to the lease is reasonably likely to adversely affect such significant features. Such stipulations shall include, but are not limited to:

"(1) requiring the lessee to reinject geothermal fluids into the rock formations from which they originate;

"(2) requiring the lessee to report annually to the Secretary on its activities;

"(3) requiring the lessee to continuously monitor geothermal production and injection wells; and

"(4) requiring the lessee to suspend activity, temporarily or permanently, on the lease if the Secretary determines that ongoing exploration, development, or utilization activities are having a significant adverse effect on significant thermal features listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section until such time as the significant adverse effect is eliminated.

"(e) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consider the effects on significant thermal features of those units of the National Park System identified in subsection (a) of this section in determining whether to consent to leasing under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, on national forest or other lands administered by the Department of Agriculture available for leasing under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, including public, withdrawn, and acquired lands.

"(f) Nothing contained in this section shall affect the ban on leasing under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, with respect to the Island Park Known Geothermal Resources Area, as provided for in Public Law 98-473 (98 Stat. 1837) [see Tables for classification] and Public Law 99-190 (99 Stat. 1267) [see Tables for classification].

"(g) Except as provided herein, nothing contained in this section shall affect or modify the authorities or responsibilities of the Secretary under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, or any other provision of law.

"(h) The provisions of this section shall remain in effect until Congress determines otherwise."

#### § 1006. Acreage limitations

A geothermal lease shall embrace a reasonably compact area of not more than 5,120 acres, except where a departure therefrom is occasioned by an irregular subdivision or subdivisions. No person, association, or corporation, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, shall take, hold, own, or control at one time, whether acquired directly from the Secretary under this chapter or otherwise, any direct or indirect interest in Federal geothermal leases in any one State exceeding 51,200 acres, including leases acquired under the provisions of section 1003 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §7, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1569; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §235, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 671.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline, substituted "5,120 acres" for "two thousand five hundred and sixty acres" and "51,200 acres" for "twenty thousand four hundred and eighty acres" in text, and struck out second par. which read as follows: "At any time after fifteen years from December 24, 1970, the Secretary, after public hearings, may increase this maximum holding in any one State by regulation, not to exceed fifty-one thousand two hundred acres."

#### § 1007. Readjustment of lease terms and conditions

##### (a) Initial readjustment; periodic intervals; notice; objections, relinquishment, and termination

The Secretary may readjust the terms and conditions, except as otherwise provided herein, of any geothermal lease issued under this chapter at not less than ten-year intervals beginning ten years after the date the geothermal steam is produced, as determined by the Secretary. Each geothermal lease issued under this chapter shall provide for such readjustment. The Secretary shall give notice of any proposed readjustment of terms and conditions, and, unless the lessee files with the Secretary objection to the proposed terms or relinquishes the lease within thirty days after receipt of such notice, the lessee shall conclusively be deemed to have agreed with such terms and conditions. If the lessee files objections, and no agreement can be reached between the Secretary and the lessee within a period of not less than sixty days, the lease may be terminated by either party.

##### (b) Rentals and royalties; initial readjustment; periodic intervals; limitation on increases and on royalties; notice; objections, relinquishment, and termination

The Secretary may readjust the rentals and royalties of any geothermal lease issued under this chapter at not less than twenty-year intervals beginning thirty-five years after the date geothermal steam is produced, as determined by the Secretary. In the event of any such readjustment neither the rental nor royalty may be increased by more than 50 per centum over the rental or royalty paid during the preceding period. Each geothermal lease issue<sup>1</sup> under this chapter shall provide for such readjustment. The Secretary shall give notice of any proposed readjustment of rentals and royalties, and, unless the lessee files with the Secretary objection to the proposed rentals and royalties or relinquishes the lease within thirty days after receipt of such notice, the lessee shall conclusively be deemed to have agreed with such terms and conditions. If the lessee files objections, and no agreement can be reached between the Secretary and the lessee within a period of not less than sixty days, the lease may be terminated by either party.

##### (c) Surface use, protection, or restoration of lands withdrawn or acquired for Federal agency; notice; approval of agency

Any readjustment of the terms and conditions as to use, protection, or restoration of the surface of any lease of lands withdrawn or acquired

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "issued".

in aid of a function of a Federal department or agency other than the Department of the Interior may be made only upon notice to, and with the approval of, such department or agency.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §8, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1569; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §§229, 236(8), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 668, 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58, §236(8), inserted section catchline.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-58, §229, substituted “period” for “period, and in no event shall the royalty payable exceed 22½ per centum” in second sentence.

### § 1008. Byproducts

If the production, use, or conversion of geothermal steam is susceptible of producing a valuable byproduct or byproducts, including commercially demineralized water for beneficial uses in accordance with applicable State water laws, the Secretary shall require substantial beneficial production or use thereof unless, in individual circumstances he modifies or waives this requirement in the interest of conservation of natural resources or for other reasons satisfactory to him. However, the production or use of such byproducts shall be subject to the rights of the holders of preexisting leases, claims, or permits covering the same land or the same minerals, if any.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §9, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(9), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

### § 1009. Relinquishment of geothermal rights

The holder of any geothermal lease at any time may make and file in the appropriate land office a written relinquishment of all rights under such lease or of any legal subdivision of the area covered by such lease. Such relinquishment shall be effective as of the date of its filing. Thereupon the lessee shall be released of all obligations thereafter accruing under said lease with respect to the lands relinquished, but no such relinquishment shall release such lessee, or his surety or bond, from any liability for breach of any obligation of the lease, other than an obligation to drill, accrued at the date of the relinquishment, or from the continued obligation, in accordance with the applicable lease terms and regulations, (1) to make payment of all accrued rentals and royalties, (2) to place all wells on the relinquished lands in condition for suspension or abandonment, and (3) to protect or restore substantially the surface and surface resources.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §10, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(10), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

### § 1010. Suspension of operations and production

The Secretary, upon application by the lessee, may authorize the lessee to suspend operations

and production on a producing lease and he may, on his own motion, in the interest of conservation suspend operations on any lease but in either case he may extend the lease term for the period of any suspension, and he may waive, suspend, or reduce the rental or royalty required in such lease.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §11, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(11), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

### § 1011. Termination of leases

Leases may be terminated by the Secretary for any violation of the regulations or lease terms after thirty days notice provided that such violation is not corrected within the notice period, or in the event the violation is such that it cannot be corrected within the notice period then provided that lessee has not commenced in good faith within said notice period to correct such violation and thereafter to proceed diligently to correct such violation. Lessee shall be entitled to a hearing on the matter of such claimed violation or proposed termination of lease if request for a hearing is made to the Secretary within the thirty-day period after notice. The period for correction of violation or commencement to correct such violation of regulations or of lease terms, as aforesaid, shall be extended to thirty days after the Secretary's decision after such hearing if the Secretary shall find that a violation exists.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §12, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(12), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

### § 1012. Waiver, suspension, or reduction of rental or royalty

The Secretary may waive, suspend, or reduce the rental or royalty for any lease or portion thereof in the interests of conservation and to encourage the greatest ultimate recovery of geothermal resources, if he determines that this is necessary to promote development or that the lease cannot be successfully operated under the lease terms.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §13, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(13), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-58 inserted section catchline.

### § 1013. Surface land use

Subject to the other provisions of this chapter, a lessee shall be entitled to use so much of the surface of the land covered by his geothermal lease as may be found by the Secretary to be necessary for the production, utilization, and conservation of geothermal resources.

(Pub. L. 91-581, §14, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1571; Pub. L. 109-58, title II, §236(14), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 672.)